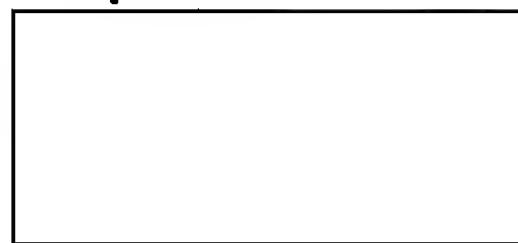


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USSR: Soviets allow marked increase in Jewish
emigration to Israel.

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USSR: A MARKED INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF EXIT VISAS GRANTED JEWS SUGGESTS THAT SOVIET AUTHORITIES ARE MAKING A TACTICAL MOVE TO HEAD OFF EMBARRASSING INCIDENTS DURING THE REVOLUTION ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS ON 7 NOVEMBER.

25X1

25X1 FROM 1-3 NOVEMBER, 350 JEWS RECEIVED ISRAELI VISAS.

25X1 IN ADDITION, THE 93 JEWS WHO DEMONSTRATED AT THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE BUILDING IN SEPTEMBER HAVE REPORTEDLY BEEN PROMISED EXIT VISAS. MANY OF THE APPLICANTS ARE WELL-EDUCATED PROFESSIONALS AND COME FROM MAJOR CITIES, SUCH AS MOSCOW AND LENINGRAD.

25X1 SOVIET AUTHORITIES HAVE BEGUN TO ACCEPT APPLICATIONS FROM JEWS WHO HAVE NO RELATIVES IN ISRAEL, PREVIOUSLY A REQUIREMENT FOR VISAS.

THE RATE OF JEWISH EMIGRATION HAS FLUCTUATED GREATLY DURING THE PAST YEAR. MANY OF THOSE WHO EMIGRATED IN RECENT MONTHS HAVE BEEN POORLY EDUCATED AND UNSKILLED, COMING FROM OUTLYING AREAS OF THE SOVIET UNION. THE CHANGE TO ALLOW URBAN JEWISH ACTIVISTS TO EMIGRATE IS PROBABLY DESIGNED TO PACIFY THE JEWS PRIOR TO THE CELEBRATIONS.

THE INCREASED RATE IS ALMOST CERTAINLY TEMPORARY. THIS TACTIC WAS USED BY THE REGIME AT THE TIME OF THE PARTY CONGRESS LAST SPRING. BY USING IT AGAIN, THE AUTHORITIES RUN THE RISK OF FORMING A PATTERN THAT MAY ENCOURAGE OTHER WOULD-BE EMIGRANTS TO THREATEN PROTESTS AND DEMONSTRATIONS AT THE TIME OF OTHER IMPORTANT OFFICIAL EVENTS TO ACHIEVE THEIR GOALS.

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